

Confederate Fortifications Historic Site

General Management Plan, Phase I

Fairfax County Park Authority
August 2004
DRAFT



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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Description of the Plan

The purpose of this General Management Plan (GMP) is to serve as a guide for all future planning and programming. The GMP establishes park purpose and classification, describes existing conditions and constraints, details the desired visitor experience and identifies “management zones.” Uses are described in general terms, so that as visitor needs change, the uses provided can change. This document should be referred to before future planning and design projects are started. General Management Plans are meant to be flexible to accommodate the changing needs of park visitors.

B. Public Process

In December 2003, The Park Authority established the Ox Hill Battlefield and Union Mills Historic Site Task Force. The Task Force’s dual role was both visionary and adviser. The Task Force guided Park Authority staff in developing a vision for the park describing the park visitor’s experience and a conceptual arrangement of uses on the site.

The Task Force was composed of a broad-based group with representation from neighbors, civic groups, park users, and the historical preservation community. The Task Force met six times between January and June 2004 and advised Park Authority staff on the development of this document.

One of the issues discussed extensively by the Task Force was regarding the name “Union Mills Historic Site” – the name that this site has been called prior to 2004. After much deliberation, the Task Force has recommended that the site be called “Confederate Fortifications Historic Site.” As part of the General Management Plan, this name change is being proposed to the Park Authority Board.

Further public involvement included a Public Hearing held on September 13, 2004 on the master plans for both Ox Hill Battlefield Park and Confederate Fortifications Historic Site. The issues raised at the public hearing included...

C. Park Description

Confederate Fortifications Historic Site is an archaeological/historic site designated as a Cultural Resource Park. The site is located in the Springfield Supervisory District. The park parcels are located adjacent to Balmoral Greens Avenue south of the junction of with Compton Road (see vicinity map, page 6).

As part of this master planning effort, six parcels will be consolidated into Confederate Fortifications Historic Site. Those parcels are Tax Map 74-2-((6)) parcels C, L, M, N, and Tax Map 74-4-((3)) parcels F, G. Together, these parcels total approximately 160 acres.

Master planning for this park site will occur in two phases. This General Management Plan addresses Phase I, hereby identified as parcels Tax Map 74-2-((6)) parcel C, L,



and Tax Map 74-4-((3)) parcel F totaling approximately 69.3 acres (see [property map, page 7](#)). Phase II of the master planning effort for Confederate Fortifications Historic Site will provide the GMP for the remaining 90.7 acres identified as Tax Map 74-2-((6)) parcels M, N, and Tax Map 74-4-((3)) parcel G. As well, Phase II will provide an overall Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) for the entire park site.

The site contains significant remnants of the historic Confederate fortifications located near McLean's Ford in the Union Mills area of the County. Principally, the remnants consist of an earthen fortification and encampment tent platforms on parcel C, a battery fort on parcel F, and various other trenches, powder magazines, and breastworks. The trace of the historic McLean's Ford Road also is located on site crossing parcels C and L.

D. Historical Background

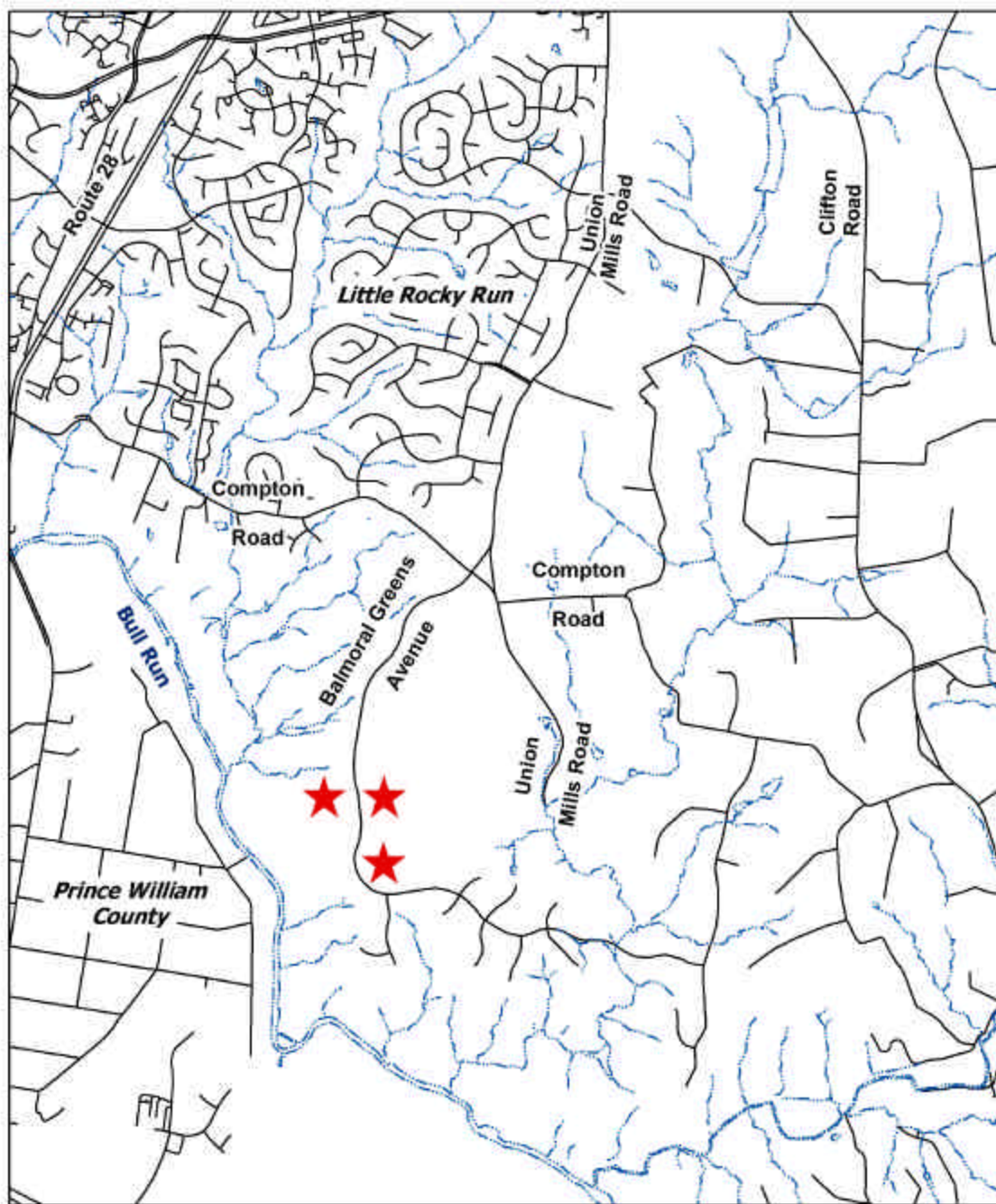
The parkland is located on what was originally part of a 383-acre tract of land granted on April 8, 1806 to John Gibson of Prince William County, Virginia. In 1823, Elisha Jenkins, first resident of this land, acquired temporary rights to clear and cultivate 20 acres from Gibson's executor, John Spence. In 1835, the property was sold to Daniel Kincheloe, a veteran of the War of 1812. Kincheloe created a working plantation and by 1859 owned three slaves, 3 horses and 30 head of livestock.

The community of Union Mills, located approximately 1.5 miles to the southeast, had coalesced in the early 19th century around John Hixon Dye's complex of grist, timber and woolen mills. Railroad expansion in the 1850s resulted in the construction of the Orange and Alexandria and Manassas Gap Railroads linking Washington, D.C. with the Shenandoah Valley and the interior of Virginia with a station operating at Union Mills by 1852. With the onset of the Civil



War in 1861, Confederate forces sought to retain control of the railroad by amassing troops at Manassas Junction, where the Manassas Gap Railroad joined the Orange and Alexandria Line. Urged on by President Lincoln, General Irvin McDowell moved his Union forces across Bull Run in July 1861 so as to dislodge the Confederates. In the resulting First Battle of Manassas, Confederate forces under Generals Joseph E. Johnston and Pierre G. Beauregard defeated McDowell's larger Union forces. Significant skirmishing occurred around the future fortifications site near McLean's Ford and upstream at Blackburn's Ford during the First Manassas campaign.

By the middle of October of 1861, Confederate forces began a substantial line of earthworks extending around the north and east of Centreville and stretching southward to Union Mills. This line included the occupation and fortification of the high ground near McLean's Ford in Fairfax County. Construction of the earthworks continued unabated even as winter approached. By early 1862, the land between Union Mills and Centreville had become one of the most thoroughly fortified spots in the United States,



Vicinity Map

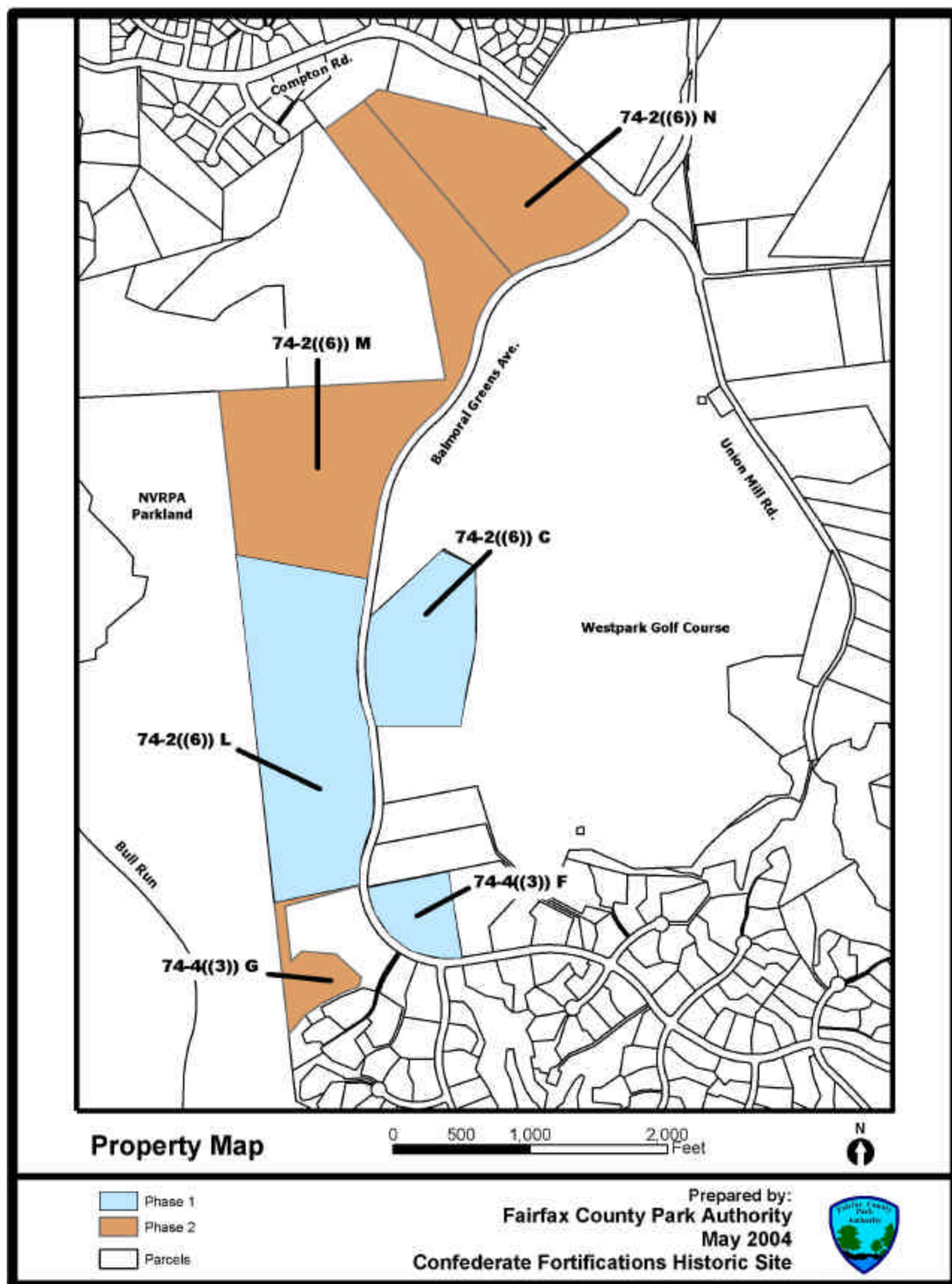
0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet



-  Park Site
-  Streams
-  Streets

Prepared by:
Fairfax County Park Authority
May 2004
Confederate Fortifications Historic Site







and two earthworks had been built near Union Mills guarding the approaches to Manassas.

At this time, political infighting among Confederate generals and disease among the troops severely weakened the Confederate forces. Rampant illness and permissive leave policies also contributed to the weakening. As of March 1862, only 2,349 of the 3,084 men enrolled under General Early's command near Union Mills were actually present and ready for duty. These problems were accentuated by Union victories in Tennessee and Kentucky and by increased activity in Fairfax County and in Maryland across from Dumfries, Virginia.

In early March of 1862, the Confederate forces were ordered to fall back to a more secure line along the Rappahannock River. General Early's troops were given their orders on March 8 and departed Union Mills the following evening, having first put the torch to any house or supplies that might be of use to the enemy.

The fortifications in the Union Mills-Centreville line had served the Confederacy well, nonetheless. A reorganized and refitted Union Army of the Potomac squandered the early months of 1862 as its leaders argued over military strategy. While McClellan and his generals were locked in dispute and Lincoln was issuing a direct order for operations to begin, the Confederate forces accomplished their evacuation of Manassas, settling the issue of Union strategy for the moment. The Union Army of the Potomac began to prepare for the onset of the Peninsula Campaign in April 1862.

Union troops established camps and pickets along the abandoned Confederate positions in western Fairfax County. A number of these camps were situated in the neighborhood of Union Mills and were posted to protect the restoration and operation of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad under the direction of Herman Haupt. These posts and pickets served as part of the outer perimeter of the defenses of Washington, DC.



Confederate forces, under the command of Robert E. Lee, proceeded north from Richmond and won a decisive victory over Union General John Pope at the Second Battle of Manassas in late August of 1862. During this engagement, the Bull Run Railroad Bridge near Union Mills was the scene of intensive combat and retreating Union troops used the old Confederate fortifications at Centreville to guard their retreat back to Alexandria and the fortifications of Washington.

In late October of 1863, there occurred the only documented instance in which the Confederate fortifications near McLean's Ford were used in combat. Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee, sensing opportunity, moved their defensive positions behind the Rapidan River and attacked General George G. Meade's right flank. As the Union army abandoned its lines, both sides began to move north toward Washington seeking a strategic advantage. A Union victory at the Battle of Bristoe Station provided General Meade with time to consolidate his troops along the old Union Mills-Centreville line. On October 15, General J.E.B. Stuart led his Confederate cavalry forces forward to scout out the new Union positions and encountered a Union brigade under General Mott guarding McLean's Ford across Bull Run. After the cavalry troops could not dislodge the Union soldiers, the cavalry brought their artillery to bear. The Union troops answered with their artillery from the vicinity of the fortifications above McLean's Ford (possibly at the redoubt battery) and this compelled the Confederate cavalry to withdraw.

By 1864, residents began to filter back into the area around Union Mills. All returned with hopes for starting anew, but scars of the military occupation were simply too severe. The community's size and economic standing declined greatly during the occupation and the post office closed in 1866. When the railroad station at Union Mills closed in 1869, unable to compete with Devereaux station in the new community of Clifton to the east, the entire area began a slow decline into obscurity. The property where the Confederates had erected the largest earthworks was largely abandoned. Owner Daniel Kincheloe had died in 1861 and over the course of the next fifty years only the eastern 177 of his 383 acres would be occupied and cultivated. The bulk of Kincheloe's estate would slowly return to secondary forest.

E. Administrative History of the Park

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a rezoning application for residential development on approximately 1000 acres of land, which included Confederate Fortifications Historic Site in 1992. In 1995, approximately 227 acres in the Union Mills area were conveyed to the BOS. One-hundred-thirty-eight (138) additional acres of land were proposed to be conveyed to the BOS in 1997. The conveyance process was postponed while the Park Comprehensive Plan was reviewed. The "'A' Fort and Battery Hill Redoubt, Camp Early" near Union Mills were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. In 2000, the BOS transferred four parcels of Confederate Fortifications Historic Site to the Park Authority [Tax Map 74-2-((6)) parcels C and L; and Tax Map 74-4-((3)) parcels F and G] and in 2001, an additional two parcels of Confederate Fortifications Historic Site were transferred to the Park Authority [Tax Map 74-2-((6)) parcels M and N].

II. Park Classification and Purpose, Significance, Visitor Profile, Strategic Initiatives

A. Park Classification and Purpose

Confederate Fortifications Historic Site is designated as a Cultural Resource Park. Cultural Resource Parks protect and preserve archaeological sites and historic properties that meet the criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places or the Public Significance criteria as designated by the Fairfax County (Virginia)

Heritage Resource Management Plan. Historic sites and archaeological parks may be located wherever evidence of human occupation exists on or beneath the land and waters. Acquisition, identification and preservation of cultural resources are for purposes of stewardship; use of the site is defined within stewardship parameters. Development of these parks should include opportunities for public education and enjoyment. To the extent that they do not adversely impact the cultural resources themselves, portions of the site may be developed with demonstration areas, and support facilities such as restrooms and parking.

Park Purpose statements are intended to provide an umbrella for planning and decision making. If a proposed use conflicts with any one of the purposes listed, it will be considered an incompatible use. By establishing park purposes, future plans can remain flexible, as legislative requirements and visitor preferences change.

The purpose of Confederate Fortifications Historic Site is to:

- Preserve, protect, enhance, and interpret the significant historic, cultural and natural resources of this portion of the Civil War fortifications and associated features.
- Provide the setting and tangible resources to educate a broad and diverse public constituency on the Civil War earthen works onsite and in the vicinity.
- Place the site in context of the overall Civil War experience in Fairfax County.
- To the extent that it does not conflict with management of the historic resources onsite, manage the extensive forested lands for wildlife habitat and human enjoyment thereof.

B. Park Significance

The Confederate built fortifications near McLean's Ford are significant because they were directly connected to important events in the American Civil War. This land was the site of skirmishing during the Battles of Blackburn's Ford and First Manassas; the earthworks are some of the best surviving examples of the network of fortifications built by the Confederate forces in 1861; numerous Confederate and Union campsites and posts were located in the area throughout the Civil War; and this was the site of intense fighting on October 15, 1863 during the Bristoe Station Campaign.

Constructed by General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of the Potomac in the fall of 1861 following the Confederate victory at the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run), these fortifications were elements in the Confederates' defenses of Manassas, running from Centreville in Fairfax County to Dumfries in Prince William County. This line of fortifications was born of Southern confidence in late 1861 that the Confederacy could successfully defend against Union incursion into Northern Virginia and perhaps even threaten Washington itself. While this was disproved, the seeming strength of the Confederate line around Manassas did influence the course of the war in the eastern theater by delaying a renewed Union assault through Northern Virginia. This delay gave Confederate forces time to assume a stronger position behind the Rappahannock

River and further compelled Union forces to initiate the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The repulse of McClellan's army from Richmond opened an opportunity for a new Confederate offensive into northern Virginia resulting in a decisive Southern victory at the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) in late August 1862.

These earthworks are significant because they are part of the last remaining fortifications constructed by the Confederate Army of the Potomac in Fairfax County, Virginia. The archaeological potential is inherent both in the fortifications themselves and in the relationship between the fortifications and the many features associated with the larger camp complex, including roads, affiliated out-buildings and officer housing, summer and winter camp sites, cooking hearths, and sanitary facilities. Because the fortifications and environs appear extensively degraded due to relic hunting, any resulting artifact distribution study must be interpreted with extreme caution. Nonetheless, there remains the potential that archaeological research at the site can identify or confirm the presence of specific military units that occupied the area. But even without such artifacts, the fortifications contain an archaeological record of the field engineering methods employed by Confederates early in the war and provide a standard by which to measure later Confederate works. Such information also provides a reference point for comparisons between Confederate and Union field techniques during the initial phase of hostilities.



The presence of the tent platforms presents a unique opportunity to examine this type of feature archaeologically. Although, there were many encampments associated with the Civil War, the overwhelming majority of them would have been destroyed as a result of subsequent agricultural activities. Because of the poor soil and the depressed economy in this area, these features were preserved and are available for study, preservation and interpretation. Similarly, the quantity and proximity of so many interrelated camp components associated with the construction and occupation of these fortifications offer an excellent means of analyzing the spatial layout of an early Confederate encampment. Lastly, the subsequent occupation of this area by Union forces, especially if confirmed by credible artifactual evidence, may allow a direct comparison between Union and Confederate army encampment practices and methods.



After the Civil War, the character of the area surrounding Union Mills changed. The Post Office and the Railroad Station closed during the first five years following the war. What had been a burgeoning mill center and focal point in the Civil War decreased in importance. The soil was poor quality and not conducive to farming, so the property was abandoned and returned to secondary growth forest. The abandonment of the area and poor soil conditions made further development of the area undesirable allowing for the archaeological and cultural features at Confederate Fortifications Historic Site to remain relatively undisturbed.

C. Visitor Profile

Visitors to the park include community members, County citizens, Civil War enthusiasts and scholars, school groups, and visitors from out of town. The park has a significant historical role. Due to its relative isolation within a large-lot subdivision, this site likely will attract few “accidental” visitors. Visitors to this park will have chosen it as a destination prior to arrival based on its significant earthworks. Through this experience they may be encouraged to visit other Civil War sites in northern Virginia.

D. Relationship to Park Authority Strategic Plan Initiatives

The Park Authority Strategic Plan is the guiding document to focus resources on the most critical work of the agency. As identified in the Strategic Plan, the dual goals of the Park Authority mission are to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources and to provide quality recreational services and facilities.

Confederate Fortifications Historic Site General Management Plan protects and enhances the significant historical resources on site. In accordance with Strategy 1.1 of the Stewardship Opportunities section of the Park Authority Strategic Plan (p. 4), this master plan gives guidance for preservation of culturally significant land at the park. By laying the groundwork for a coordinated interpretation of many area Civil War sites, the master plan also furthers Stewardship Opportunities Strategies 2.3 and 2.4 that call for creating expanded awareness of resource stewardship issues within the Park Authority and among Fairfax County residents.

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Existing and Planned Land Use, Zoning

The site is located in the Johnny Moore Community Planning Sector of the Pohick Planning District of the County’s Comprehensive Plan. This planning sector is planned for low-density residential uses at a density of 1 dwelling unit per every five to ten acres. The park site is currently undeveloped. The surrounding properties include undeveloped Northern Virginia Regional Park land to the west, the privately operated Westfields golf course to the east, and low-density residential development and open space elsewhere.

The site and surrounding parcels are zoned R-C which allows residential uses at a density of one unit per five acres. The purpose of the R-C zoning district is to protect the quality of water in the watershed of a key public water supply, the Occoquan Reservoir. The district promotes open, rural areas as well as agricultural, forestry, and low-density residential uses.

In the vicinity of Confederate Fortifications Historic Site the Countywide Trails Plan shows a major county trail along Bull Run. This trail exists and is maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Other trails planned nearby according to the Countywide Trails Plan include one along the west side of Union Mills Road and another within the Johnny Moore Creek stream valley.

Virginia land use law requires that public and utility uses demonstrate compliance with the local comprehensive land use plan. The process is typically referred to as a “2232-Determination” because of the section number of Commonwealth law that legislates the process. Park plans are reviewed for compatibility with 2232 criteria (specifically location, character, and extent) to determine compliance of the park master plan with the County Comprehensive Plan and adjacent land use. Following adoption of this park master plan, the Park Authority will submit a 2232 application to obtain approval from the County Planning Commission if it is determined to be necessary.

B. Cultural Resources

The known principal site features in the park include an earthen fortification, perhaps best classified as a “pan coupe” redan battery; a second small redoubt battery containing nine cannon embrasures; a series of Civil War encampment tent platforms; the remains of a former house and associated structures; other features of likely Civil War origins and the trace of a historic roadbed.



The principal earthen fortification is a redan battery fortification measuring 550 feet north to south by 500 feet east to west with a total length exceeding 1100 feet. Its walls along the left and right flanks are roughly sixteen feet thick at their base and are up to four feet in height, with shallow dry ditches paralleling both sides. At the fortification's apex or "advanced part," the earthen walls measure twenty-six feet across at the base and exceed six feet in height along this portion of the line, facing north, northeast, east, southeast, and south. There are five cannon embrasures cut into the parapet. Additional cannons were placed at the gorge or open ends of the redan battery where the parapet was lower. The positioning of these embrasures would have provided Confederate guns a wide field of fire and allowed them to defend both the fort's "retired parts" and other nearby Confederate positions.



A water-filled trench six to ten feet wide also abuts the eastern side of the earthwork. Another earthen wall running from north to south, approximately three feet tall and twelve feet wide, lies within the fortification and probably was intended as a fall back position, as protection for the artillery if enemy troops attacked from the west. Within the confines of the fortification west of the interior earthen wall lie the disturbed remains of at least one well, one house, and one other unidentified structure.



To the north and northeast of the fortification, there are 156 rectangular features arranged in twelve rows that are believed to be tent platforms for the soldiers manning the fortifications. East of these are two rows of slit trenches, one with three segments and measuring 110 feet long and the other with four segments and measuring 215 feet long; the trenches are 3 feet wide, at least 2 feet deep, and have been interpreted as latrines.

The property also contains features comprised of piles of rocks and depressions. Archaeological testing at one of these features recovered numerous domestic artifacts that predate the Civil War, as well as some artifacts that date to the Civil War era. It appears that the feature may represent a house that predated the Civil War and was used as officers' quarters during the Civil War occupation of the property. The presence of 20th century cigarette butts in the lowest levels of the excavation indicates that this feature had been previously looted by relic hunters. A second rock feature may represent a powder magazine.



A battery fortification identified in the National Register form as “Battery Hill Redoubt” lies approximately 1200 feet to the south of the redan battery earthworks. Its walls, twenty to thirty-four feet thick at their base and four to six feet tall, form a crude rectangle with an interior circumference of approximately 240 feet. The redoubt contains nine separate cannon embrasures facing every possible direction except due west. The water-filled remnants of a trench run along the outside of the redoubt's eastern side.

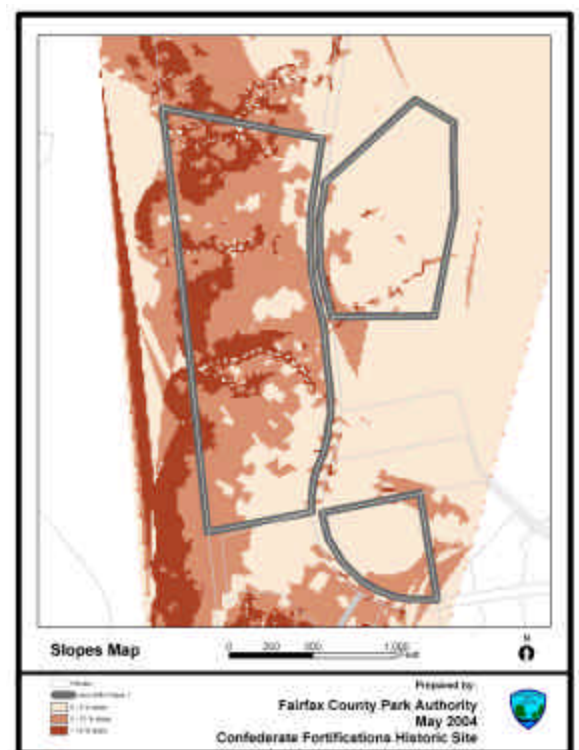


C. Natural Resources

Note, all natural resources have been evaluated for two of the three phase one parcels: Tax Map 74-2-((6)) C and Tax Map 74-4-((3)) F. The other Phase I parcel (Tax Map 74-2-((6)) parcel L) has not been evaluated for natural resources but is under conservation easement and therefore protected. Future studies will be conducted on the remaining parcels that comprise the Confederate Fortifications Historic Site assemblage.

1. Topography and Slopes

The topography of the northern 18.8-acres section (Tax Map 74-2-((6)) C) slopes very gently from the high point of the site in the east, where the remains of the fortification are located, towards the north, west and south. No streams or wetlands are present on the property, but several low spots contained standing water during recent field work. Most of these spots are located within established paths, and are areas of compacted soil, created by off road vehicles before the area was closed off to vehicular traffic. Other areas containing standing water are the deepest trenches of the A - shaped fort. This is in part due to the extremely

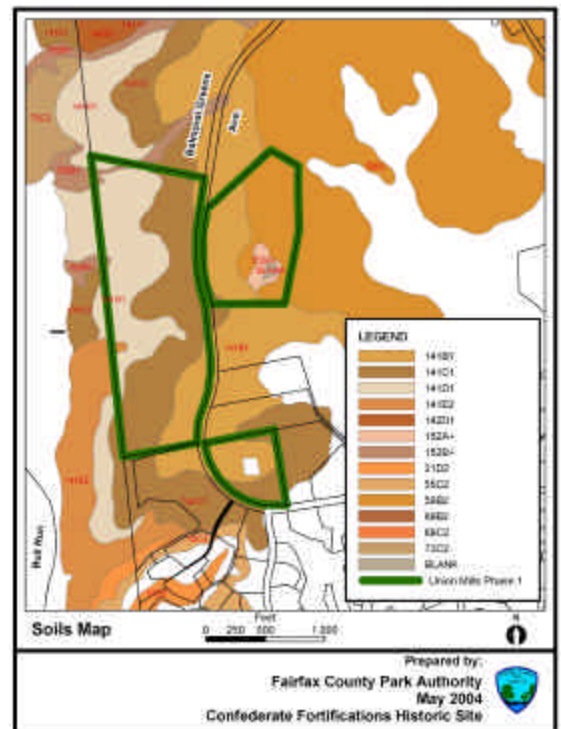


wet spring the year surveys were conducted, but some of the trenches may contain standing water for a good part of the year, based upon the water's black appearance and presence of un-decomposed leaf litter. In addition, amphibian egg masses are present in some of the ephemeral pools, and a few wet tolerant plants such as soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) were noted in isolated low spots. Drainage is generally toward the west.

The southern 6.9-acres parcel (*Tax Map 74-4-((3)) F*) also has very gently sloping topography, with the remains of the fortification located on its highest point in the middle. From there, the site gently slopes down to the north, east, south and southeast. No streams or wetlands are present on this parcel either, but some ephemeral pools of water were observed in low spots.

2. Soils and Geology

A small section of the eastern half of this parcel is mapped as Elbert - Orange group, (soil type 152A+). This wet, plastic soil occurs in drainage ways and foot slopes in materials derived from weathered greenstone and alluvium. Slowly permeable plastic clay subsoil occurs 2 to 4 feet below the surface. The seasonal high water table is 0 to 0.5 foot below the surface. Soils are poorly drained and have slow runoff; permeability is slow to very slow. The depth to bedrock varies from 3 to 15 feet. Elbert is predominantly hydric and may contain potential nontidal wetlands. Erosion potential of this soil type is low. Vegetation on this mapping unit usually consists of willow, blackjack, post, and pin oaks; red maple, hickory, red cedar, and pine.



The western portion of the northern parcel is mapped as 141B1, Rocky Land – Orange. This mapping unit occurs on hilltops and side slopes in association with the Orange soils in the greenstone areas. Frequent rock outcrops or boulders cover 20 to 50 percent of the surface. Plastic clay subsoil may occur at one to three feet. The depth to hard bedrock varies from zero to 15 feet. The depth to seasonal high water table varies from one to greater than ten feet. Erosion potential for this soil type is moderate.

The southern parcel of Confederate Fortifications Historic Site is almost totally mapped as 141, Rocky Land, with a slope variation of B (2-7%) and C (7-14%). This mapping unit is described in the previous paragraph.

A small corner in the southeast of the southern parcel is mapped as 69C2, Enon Silt Loam Rolling Phase. This soil consists of very deep, well drained, slowly permeable soils on ridge tops and side slopes in the Piedmont. Forested areas have varying association of shortleaf, loblolly, and Virginia pine, eastern red cedar, white oak,

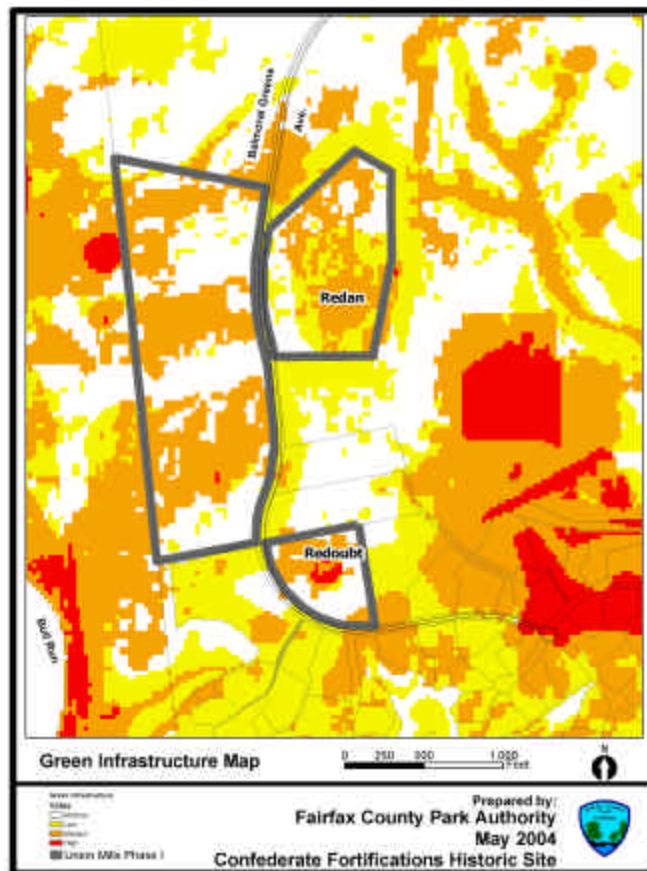
northern and southern red oak, hickory, yellow-poplar, sweet gum, black gum, dogwood, and holly. The silty clay subsoil has moderate to high plasticity. A seasonal high water table, over clay or bedrock, is 2 to 6 feet below the surface. Depth to hard bedrock is typically 2 to 6 feet. Permeability is moderately slow. Erosion potential of this soil type is high.

3. Green Infrastructure Statement

The Fairfax County Park Authority has developed a modeling tool to identify significant natural and cultural resources in the County. Using the County's geographic information system (GIS), the Park Authority has produced a countywide "Green Infrastructure" model and resultant map based on a weighted analysis of significant environmental and historic features.

The weighted analysis produces a general resource value that recognizes the combination in value of various resources within the three general categories of environmental, cultural, and open space areas, but does not rank importance between categories. The model is limited by the extent, accuracy, and resolution of the source data used. Several important resources, such as rare, threatened, and endangered species and Environmental Quality Corridors (EQCs) are not considered in the analysis due to the unavailability or incompatibility of the data.

The Green Infrastructure Map ([see map](#)) indicates that compared to other parcels in the County, this site has a fairly high combination of natural and cultural resources. Since the purpose of the Green Infrastructure Model is largely to rank properties based on a combination of different resources, one can not assume the absence of a single specific resource based on a "minimum," "low," or "medium" Green Infrastructure rating. Based on more detailed site studies, we know that this site has significant cultural and natural resources.



4. Flora

The majority of Tax Map 74-2-((6)) C (over 18 acres) is dominated by the Yellow Poplar forest. The remaining 0.4 acres of this parcel is located outside the fence and is cleared grassland. While yellow or tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) is the dominant canopy tree in most areas, some areas have concentrations of other species, in

particular hickories (*Carya sp.*). Other very commonly occurring species are ashes (*Fraxinus sp.*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and white oak (*Quercus alba*). American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) are also found throughout the stand in small quantities. The understory is dominated by maples, oaks, and hickories.

Although tulip poplar is highly shade intolerant, it too is present in the understory in various locations, especially where the canopy cover is less dense. Common understory shrubs and small trees include flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), red bud (*Cercis canadensis*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). The herbaceous layer is diverse, with various ferns (*Botrychium virginianum*, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, and *Thelepteris noveboracensis*), sedges (*Carex laxiflora*, *Carex pensylvanica*, and *Carex blanda*) and grasses (*Hystrix patula*, *Dichanthelium clandestinum*, *Brachyelytrum erectum*) present throughout. In addition many wildflowers such as toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), rue anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*), bedstraws (*Galium sp.*), bellworts (*Uvularia perfoliata* and *sessilifolia*) and wild yam (*Discorea quaternata*) are present in the herbaceous layer. In a few locations, twayblades (*Liparis lilifolia*) were observed in full bloom.

Forest Structure Analysis of this stand indicates a forest structure that is rated on the high side of “good”. Invasive species are not a real concern on this site, although there is some evidence of Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*).

There are two distinct forest stands on Tax Map 74-4-((3)) F. White oak (*Quercus alba*) is the dominant species in the first stand which is approximately 3.6 acres in size. Several oak and hickory species comprise the remainder of the species mix. These include post oak (*Quercus stellata*), black oak (*Quercus velutina*) and mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*).

Understory trees consist of American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier sp.*) red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and many oak and hickory saplings. Shrubs such as lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium vacillans*) and deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*) are present throughout. The herbaceous layer is varied and includes asters, sedges, wood sorrel, several grasses among which poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*), bell worts (*Uvularia sp.*) and many other species.

The Forest Structure Analysis of this forest stand is good. Ample regeneration of oaks and hickories is taking place, evidenced by an abundance of saplings in the understory and herbaceous layers.

The second stand in the southern parcel is an approximately 3.1 acres in size and is comprised of a mixture of Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*) and oak species (*Quercus sp.*) such as white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*) and black oak (*Quercus velutina*). Other species in this stand include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). While Virginia Pine is no longer a dominant in this area, this stand has characteristics of the transitional Virginia Pine – Oak forest type. This forest cover

type usually occupies old field and disturbed sites, where oaks and other hardwood species have been able to establish themselves in the openings in between the Virginia pines. The Virginia pines in the section are rapidly reaching their climax, and the presence of many oak and hickory seedlings and saplings in the understory, as well as the fact that pines are no longer dominant, are an indication that this forest is in the last stages of transitioning to the adjacent Oak – Hickory community, by which it is surrounded.

A few small ephemeral pools with some wet tolerant sedges were noted within low spots surrounding the fort. The remaining 0.2 acres of the site is cleared grassland at the edge of the road.

The Forest Structure Analysis for this section is priority, indicating high natural diversity and a high wildlife habitat value. Few or no invasive species are present within the entire southern section of Confederate Fortifications Historic Site.

5. Fauna

Although the northern parcel is fenced in its entirety and the southern parcel contains a fence surrounding the fortification remnants, many deer have been observed on both parcels. A wide variety of plants favored by white tail deer, as well as many songbird species are present on both parcels, including, but not limited to greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), grapes (*Vitis sp.*) and pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). A number of shrubs were browsed extensively on the northern parcel (in particular spicebush). It is possible that, despite the fence, wildlife migration takes place to the larger forest areas across the street as well as to the surrounding golf course and residential areas, which contain the edge habitat favored by deer. The forest is used by a variety of bird species, and the ephemeral ponds contained many amphibian egg masses. While no other signs of wildlife habitation were observed, the Forest Structure Analysis shows a good to high wildlife habitat value for the entire area.

D. Park Access

Access to the park is via Balmoral Greens Avenue. Currently, the only available parking is along the shoulder of the road. Pedestrian access is currently accomplished from the shoulder of the road and along unimproved, previously established foot paths.

E. Existing Facilities

The site is undeveloped except for one composite interpretative sign adjacent to Balmoral Greens Avenue near the redan battery. The redan battery and redoubt battery areas are currently encircled by chain link fence for security. Locked, gated access is provided into each of the secured areas.

F. Utilities

No utilities are currently developed or used on the park site although there is evidence of utility lines onsite and nearby. The surrounding development is served by electric, telephone, and water utilities. A twelve-inch water line serving the community runs



along Balmoral Greens Avenue. Sewage treatment is provided by onsite systems (generally, septic systems and drainfields).

G. Description of Adjacent Properties

The Westfields Golf Course surrounds lot C of the park site on the north, east, and south sides. The golf course totals 232 acres in size and includes two small cemetery lots. To the west, across Balmoral Greens Avenue, lies parcel L of the park site.

Large residential lots of the Balmoral at Clifton subdivision bound park parcel F. Park parcel L lays west of park parcel C and east of the largely forested Northern Virginia Regional parkland.

IV. Management and Development

A. Desired Visitor Experience

The desired visitor experience at this park is for visitors to:

- View the earthen fortifications, tent platforms and other features from a vantage point that will not adversely affect the condition of these resources.
- Learn, enjoy, and become educated about the cultural features in the context of the Civil War occupation and use of the property.
- Connect the features found at this site to Civil War features elsewhere on Park Authority property, in the county and in the region.
- Enjoy the extensive forested habitat of the park.

B. Resource Management

1. Cultural Resource Management

The parcel containing the redoubt battery will be subject to archaeological investigation to further address research questions that staff has about this resource. The results of the archaeological study will be used to better understand and interpret the site. Additional archaeological survey will be conducted on the parcels across from the redan battery and redoubt battery to better understand the Civil War use and occupation in this area. The goal of the survey is to document and map any archaeological resources that may be present on the parcels and to interpret these resources to the public.

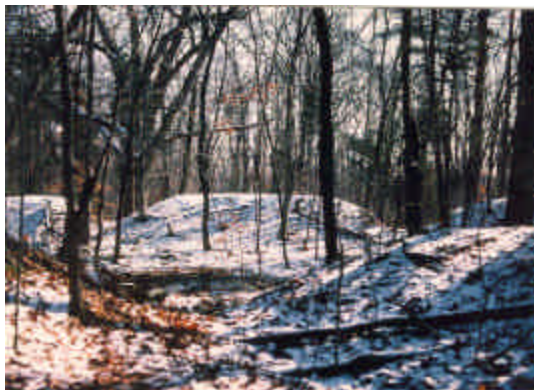
The earthworks and the tent platforms are fragile, non-renewable cultural resources that require treatment for their preservation and maintenance. It is essential that a treatment plan be prepared as soon as possible to outline the best practices to be applied to preserve the earthworks and tent platforms. The treatment plan will also address the best means for allowing park visitors to the site while protecting the historic resources.

An interpretative plan will be developed to propose ways to best interpret the site. The Ox Hill/Union Mills task force (or subset thereof) will be established to act in

an advisory capacity to assist in the development of the plan for site interpretation. A partnership will be developed among members of the community, the area crews, and the cultural resource protection section to monitor and protect the site from relic hunting and vandalism. Site conditions will be monitored.

2. Natural Resource Management

There are significant forest stands of good quality onsite. Some of these stands may be treated to remove dangerous trees and to allow for interpretation of the cultural resources. Each of these forested areas should be preserved as much as possible, but in particular, the Virginia pine/Oak stand in the southern portion of the property should be protected in the context of cultural resource interpretation being the priority for this site. In addition there are a number of ephemeral ponds that should be left in tact if possible. Because the pools are numerous and difficult to map and are often coincident with road beds and cultural resources, field visits with staff from Natural Resource Management and Protection will be needed to determine how best to decide which areas can be preserved. This presents an opportunity to interpret both natural and cultural resources concurrently.



While invasive plant species do not appear to be a major problem at this site, once development of the park is complete, the invasive species that were noticed should be addressed. Because invasives are such a large problem throughout the County, the Park Authority does not have adequate resources to address the issue in all the parks. An invasives project at Confederate Fortifications Historic Site might be carried out through volunteers or an Eagle Scout project.

There are no known wildlife concerns in the park. The Park Authority does participate in a deer management program, and Confederate Fortifications Historic Site might be considered for future management activities. Citizens often volunteer to keep lists of wildlife sightings in parks and such activities would be welcomed at Confederate Fortifications Historic Site.

C. Interpretation and Visitor Services

1. Information and Interpretative Media

Interpretation at the site should include a series of interpretative signs designed to educate the public as to the historical events that occurred during the Civil War.

One of the interpretative signs should address how this park ties in with other Civil War sites in the County and region. This signage should be consistent with other signage in the County and address appropriate Civil War themes. Interpretative materials would include information available on the Park Authority website, as well as brochures and other media. Due to the relative isolation of this park site, it is important to provide appropriate site promotion, map guidance, and signage. The specifics of site interpretation will be developed as part of the interpretative plan.

2. Integration With Other Civil War Sites

A goal of the Park Authority is to create a coordinated interpretation of Civil War activities on separate but related sites that ultimately results in a unified interpretative experience of Civil War sites and events that took place throughout Fairfax County and surrounding municipalities. While the primary focus of this general management plan is to establish appropriate uses for Confederate Fortifications Historic Site, it is a goal of this plan to lay the initial groundwork for an integrated interpretation of the numerous Civil War resources present on other Park Authority property, as well. The desired outcome is to provide the visitor with a more complete idea of where those specific resources fit within a larger historic context.

In 2002, the Fairfax County Park Authority developed an inventory of Civil War events, locations and sites and evaluated those that survive. The purpose of this inventory is to facilitate better management of Fairfax County's Civil War cultural resources and to inform decisions about preservation planning and development. The project consisted of data collection and data management. The data collection phase included the review of primary and secondary source material and the conduct of informational interviews. The data management Phase included the confirmation of the information collected through reconnaissance, the development of an inventory of sites, and the mapping of these sites using GIS.

Today, the tangible evidence of Fairfax County's Civil War heritage is masked by the growth of the county. At the same time, interest in the Civil War has grown into a national tourism industry. Fairfax County has unrealized potential in Civil War heritage tourism. Although many locations of Civil War activity have been destroyed by development, a large number of Civil War sites have survived and can be used to interpret the county's history. These locations include impressive fortifications in parks; winter hut depressions in residential yards; and soldiers' graffiti in churches, among numerous other examples. The Civil War Sites inventory can be used by planners to ensure that the county's rich Civil War history will survive to inspire future county residents.

The Fairfax County Civil War Sites Inventory contains 850 locations and events within Fairfax County. This number represents a fraction of the actual number of locations and events that occurred in the county. It is estimated that the project team examined about 25% of the county, concentrating on areas where the most intensive Civil War occupations occurred. The inventory is a work in progress, with site information being added to the database as projects containing Civil War resources are conducted.

Programs such as Virginia Civil War Trails have shown that providing standardized recognizable signage and linking sites through programs, web sites, brochures and other media improves public knowledge of local history, increases awareness and support for preservation and maintenance of the sites, and boosts the local economy due to increased tourism. Using the Virginia Civil War Trails as a model, it is recommended that a comprehensive approach be developed for interpretive signage and programming of Civil War resources within the park system. Integration with other Federal, state, local, and private Civil War sites should be considered also. The Park Authority sites to be integrated include:

Sully	Annandale Community Park
Freedom Hill Fort	Dranesville Tavern
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park	Lewinsville
Lanes Mill	Historic Huntley
Sully Woodlands	Mount Air
Fort Willard	Frying Pan Meeting House
Recreation Lake	Lake Accotink
Wakefield Park	Manassas Gap Railroad Historic Site
Ox Hill Battlefield Park	Military Railroad Park
Cub Run Stream Valley- Railroad Abutments	

The planning and development of all parks with associated Civil War interpretative opportunities should address this issue of linkage. Through appropriate planning of Confederate Fortifications Historic Site with reference to other related sites, the public will be able to trace significant events through a series of parks (both local and national) across the region to facilitate a more global understanding of the actions of that turbulent time in the history of the United States.

D. Site Considerations

The site contains highly significant, fragile, non-renewable archaeological resources. A treatment plan will be developed to direct the treatment of the cultural and natural resources on this site. This plan will make recommendations for the treatment of the fortifications, tent platforms and other features, including guidance as to planting and/or ground cover suggested for the site; a proposal for the removal or preservation of trees and other plantings; recommendations for treatment of McLean's Ford Road; recommendations for any trail system, etc. Trees rooted in the earthworks are of particular concern.



Since visitation to the site could adversely affect archaeological resources as a result of human erosion, a trail system will have to be developed that will allow visitors to see the resources without adversely affecting the resources. Controlled access walkways should pass near enough to the land features to permit easy viewing and interpretation but not allow visitors to detour from the designated trail.

Security is another major site consideration. There is evidence that a great deal of relic hunting has occurred at this site. Because of concerns for any

artifacts that remain at the site, relic hunting is a continuing issue. In order to discourage relic hunters, provisions will have to be taken in the form of signage, community watch, education, and potentially, prosecution. Consideration should be given to locking the site at the time of park closing each day. Perhaps an agreement could be arranged with members of the surrounding community to assist the Park Authority in this task.

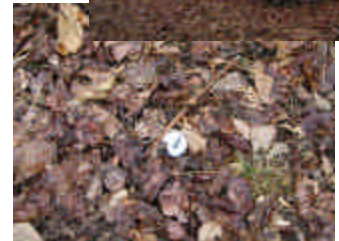
Parking is a major site concern. The goal should be to provide parking areas for 6-10 cars and one bus on both sides of the Balmoral Greens Avenue. The parking areas should be located so as to not disturb significant cultural resources and should be screened with landscape plantings. Consideration should be given to designing the parking area on the east side of Balmoral Greens Avenue similar to a scenic vista pull-off.



There is a continuing concern regarding the number of golf balls that are hit onto the park from the driving range and adjacent holes on the golf course. Hundreds of golf balls can be found in the park in the area adjacent to the golf course. The danger presented by visitors to the site being struck by golf balls is very real and serious. Measure will have to be taken to prevent injury resulting from golf balls.

The site has areas of 20th century refuse (such as abandoned cars and household rubbish). It is recommended that the park be cleaned of non-artifactual refuse.

Although the speed limit on Balmoral Forest Road is posted at 25 miles per hour, vehicular traffic has been observed traveling at much higher speeds. Traffic has been observed traveling at speeds in excess of 45 miles per hour on this road. The road provides a potential danger to visitors to the site. Traffic calming measures should be considered to improve safety on the road.



V. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The management framework integrates research, site analysis, and basic data presented in this document. Management zones have been defined to provide a framework for decision-making. Existing uses, existing conditions and recommendations from Park Authority staff were considered in the development of the management zones. The framework provides broad flexibility within a range of potential uses for each management zone. The General Management Plan Map on [page 26](#) depicts the management zones.

The "Potential Uses" stated for the zone describe what uses are acceptable for each zone. If a use is not listed for a zone, by its omission it is considered an incompatible use for that zone. The potential uses are intentionally general to allow flexibility when making decisions following further studies of the site.

A. Resource Protection Zone

The entire park, with the exception of the Entrance Zone, will be designated as a Resource Protection Zone (RPZ). The park will be managed to protect the existing cultural and natural resources of the site.

POTENTIAL USES:

In the resource protection zone, the emphasis will be on the preservation, protection, and interpretation of cultural and natural resources contained therein. These resources will be subject to ongoing research. An interpretation program will be developed as part of the interpretation plan to educate the public regarding the Civil War use of the property.

Through the treatment plan a series of trails or elevated walkways will allow visitors to view the resources without impacting them. Trails should be located on site in light of the goal of conserving the significant cultural resources. The treatment plan and interpretative plan for the site will help determine the appropriate extent of trails, signage, kiosks, observation platforms, and/or demonstration areas within the resource protection zone.

B. Entrance Zones

Entrance zones will be selected where there will be the minimum impact to significant cultural and natural resources. They will be a point of transition from the 21st century landscape to the Civil War landscape. They will provide orientation to the site and will begin the interpretation and education mission of the site.

POTENTIAL USES:

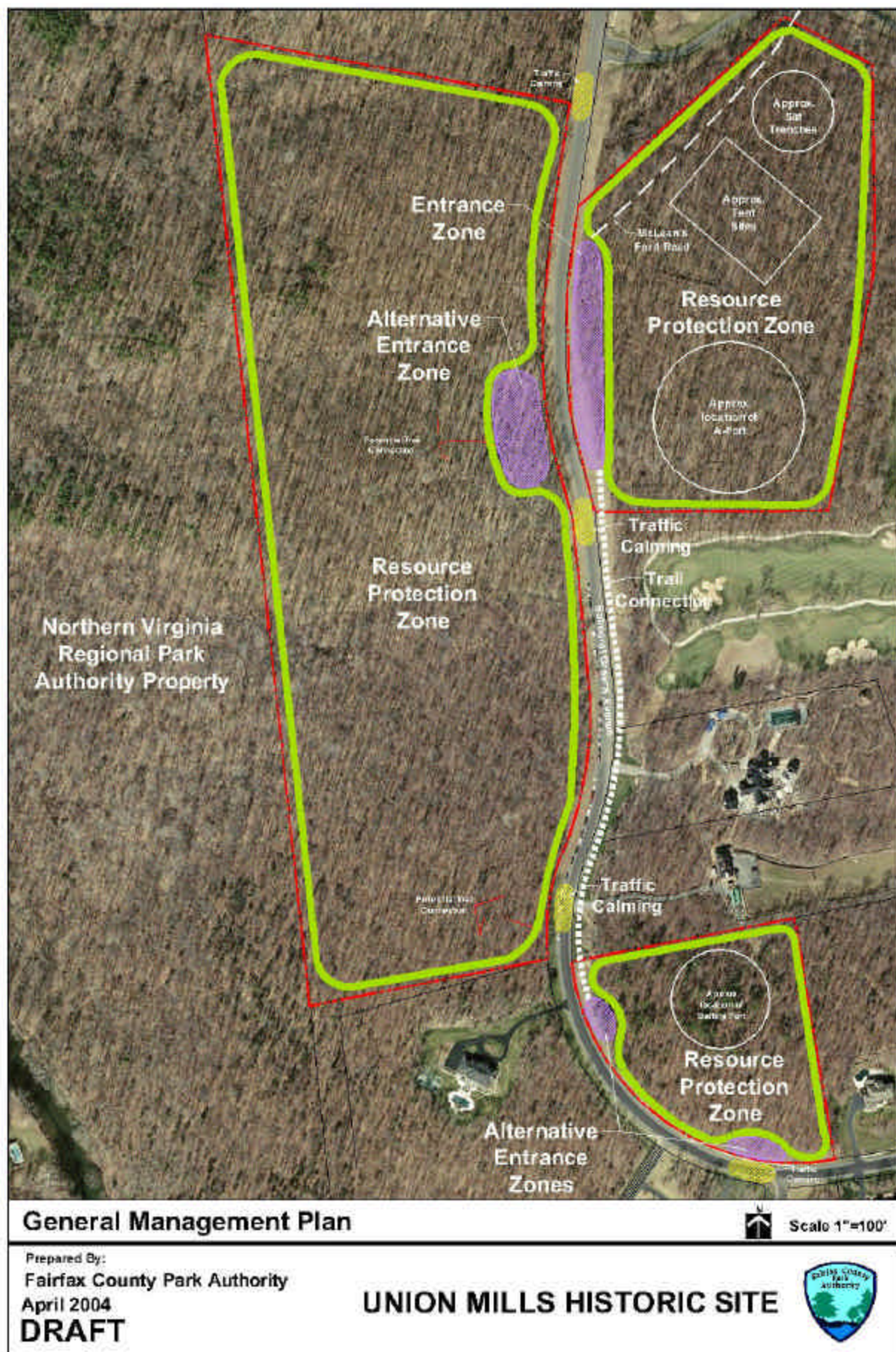
- A small parking/pull-off area potentially with a bench or seating area
- Entrance trail
- Information kiosk and/or signage

C. Site Management Recommendations

The treatment plan, interpretative plan, and further archaeological studies will be used to provide the detailed guidance for the site management of natural and cultural historic resources at Confederate Fortifications Historic Site. The primary goal is to continue to preserve and maintain the earthworks, other Civil War features, historic landscape, and archaeological resources to prevent further deterioration. A detailed boundary survey with appropriate onsite monuments is recommended to assist in this effort.

It is envisioned that the redan battery will be the primary interpretative area. As such, it should be ADA-accessible. If ADA-accessibility is not practical at the redoubt battery, interpretative signs describing the redoubt battery should be

provided at the redan battery so that persons with disabilities can experience the redoubt battery as well.





RAILROAD TRESSLE BRIDGE OVER BULL RUN
NEAR UNION MILLS